

60,130-1197; 01MRA0362

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A drive axle assembly comprising:

an axle housing;

an coaxial axle shafts supported at least partially within said axle housing;

a driven shaft supported at least partially within said housing transverse to said axle shafts;

a gear assembly disposed within said housing coupling said axle and driven shafts,
wherein said gear assembly includes a differential coupling said axle shafts and said driven shaft to permit relative rotation between said axle shafts;

a bearing assembly supporting said driven shaft in said housing;

a seal interposed between said driven shaft and said housing adjacent to said bearing assembly separating said housing into first and second cavities with said bearing assembly and said gear assembly respectively disposed therein;

a first lubricant in said first cavity lubricating said bearing assembly; and

a second lubricant different than said first lubricant in said second cavity lubricating said gear assembly.

2. (Amended) The drive axle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said axle housing includes a main housing portion supporting said axle shaft and a bearing cage removably secured to said main housing portion supporting said driven shaft.

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3. (Original) The drive axle assembly according to claim 2, wherein said bearing cage is a pinion bearing cage.

4. (Original) The drive axle assembly according to claim 2, wherein said bearing cage is a through shaft bearing cage.

5. (Original) The drive axle assembly according to claim 2, wherein said bearing cage is an input bearing cage.

6. (Original) The drive axle assembly according to claim 2, wherein said seal is interposed between cage and said driven shaft.

7. (Previously Presented) The drive axle assembly according to claim 6, wherein said bearing assembly includes a cup affixed to said cage and a cone affixed to said shaft with rolling elements circumferentially located relative to one another by a retainer and arranged between said cup and said cone, said seal interposed between and in engagement with said cage and said cone.

8. (Original) The drive axle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said second lubricant includes a GL5 additive.

9. (Cancelled)

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10. (Previously Presented) The drive axle assembly according to claim 14, further including a second seal interposed between said driven shaft and said housing adjacent said bearing assembly opposite said seal.

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11. (Currently Amended) A drive axle bearing cage assembly comprising:
a bearing cage;
a driven shaft supported by said bearing cage having a yoke at one end and a pinion at another end opposite said yoke;
a bearing assembly supporting said driven shaft in said bearing cage between said yoke and said pinion, said bearing assembly including a cup affixed to said cage and a cone affixed to said shaft with rolling elements circumferentially located relative to one another by a retainer and arranged between said cup and said cone;
a first seal interposed between said driven shaft and said bearing cage adjacent to said yoke;
a second seal interposed between said driven shaft and said bearing cage adjacent to said pinion; and
wherein said seals are interposed between and in engagement with said cage and said cone.

12.-13. (Cancelled)

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14. (Previously Presented) The drive axle assembly according to claim 1, wherein said seal is interposed between said gear assembly and said bearing assembly.